



40th Scientific Committee
Doc. EEA/SC/40/04-final
05 October 2007

Final minutes of 39th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
Copenhagen, 16 May 2007

Approved by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee on 05 October 2007

Signed

Prof. László Somlyódy
Chairman EEA Scientific Committee

A. PARTICIPANTS – see the list in annexes under item E

Manfred Grasserbauer from JRC attended the meeting as observer. Apologies were received from Marc Bonazountas, Daniel Cossa, Juan Martinez-Alier, Peter Wadhams, Christian Heidorn from Eurostat and Ahmet Saatçi from Marmara University.

B. AGENDA – see annexes under item E

The tabled documents were acknowledged under the respective agenda items throughout the meeting (listed in annex 1 under item E).

C. PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16 May 2007, EEA

Item 1. Welcome by the Scientific Committee Chairman, Prof. L.Somlyódy

The Chairman welcomed the members to the Scientific Committee meeting and passed on apologies on behalf of the members, who were unable to be present (see the Attendance list in Annex 2). Reflecting on the Research foresight workshop held the previous day and a half, he asked the members to consider possible implications on the work of the current committee and how to make best use of the ideas generated during the workshop.

Item 2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted (final version in Annex I to the minutes).

Item 3. Approval of minutes of the 38th Scientific Committee, 13-14 February 2007

The Scientific Committee adopted the minutes of its 38th meeting held on 13-14 February (final version of Doc. EEA/SC/39/03 available on CIRCA).

Item 4. Scientific update by the Executive Director

In addition to the written update, the Executive Director mentioned the latest developments in EEA with respect to the following issues:

- In the coming 18 months **SEIS** would be addressed at three levels (political, operational and quick wins project) and the Agency would try to engage in discussions with each member country.
- **GMES**: an EEA high-level expert would be based in the GMES office in Brussels to liaise with the different partners. EEA has produced a paper on in-situ requirements looking into possibilities to ensure sustainability of the observing systems
- **CIFAS**: there was an ongoing dialogue on land use and land change, which the Agency would be trying to take it up under CAP
- **CLC**: all contracts on the update had been signed, apart from Norway, and the Agency was aiming to produce an CLC update by next summer, covering urban and forest areas with 5 m resolution for all of Europe
- Depending on the **budget** discussions with the Commission, 7 additional posts could be opened in content areas. The SC members would be also informed about the launch of new call for National experts before the summer.
- Ongoing discussion on producing a 'Stern-like' report on biodiversity between the European Commission and Germany. Evaluation of ecosystems and services would be put on the agenda of the COP 2008 meeting.
- Two big reports were under preparation (Belgrade and GEO4), wind potential study was underway, as well as some developments in the area of education.
- A regular media monitoring system has been set, reflecting an increased coverage of the Agency across Europe.

In addition, M. Grasserbauer (JRC) informed the committee of a partnership with the Agency, which resulted in producing GIS maps on potential biomass regions and the focus now was on the environmental impact of utilisation of biofuels.

The SC members took note of the Executive Director's update. With regard to the biofuels discussion, they voiced some concerns to do with the soils of Europe and the possible competition to the food production. They advised for more research activities into renewables, biomass and biofuels technologies looking at ways not to put the ecosystems under stress and to consider impacts.

Item 5. Follow-up from the Research foresight workshop and further steps on Annual Management Plan (AMP) 2008

Reflecting on the workshop from the previous day and a half, the Chairman thanked the members for their contributions and asked all input from both SC and EEA colleagues to be collected with recommendations on the next steps. He also informed the members that alongside the report from the workshop, in the next months the consultants would develop an inventory of the ongoing research within the FP7 framework. Furthermore he mentioned that the outcome of the foresight research project could feed into the next 'Bridging the Gap' (BtG) Conference, planned for 2008 in Slovenia. Adding to that, the Executive Director said that planning of the conference was underway; as of that moment, the idea was to bridge the gap between research and public needs, as opposed to policy needs at the last BtG conference.

The members noted the good structure of the foresight workshop around five different drivers and supported the idea of using the outcome for further activities. In the discussion on the follow-up, the members reflected on a number of issues, among which were:

- It could be worthwhile to look more in depth into long-term environmental problems and upcoming transformations;
- To connect rural and forest development to urbanisation and linked factors;
- To explore further foresight and scenarios links by looking at Europe as a part of the global picture, including its impact and support to emerging economies like India and China;
- To look at links between the technology innovations and renewables, not withstanding Europe's energy dependence on Russian gas.

Following the SC comments, the Chairman made a recommendation to look into possibilities of utilising the ideas generated at the workshop at an interface of information gathering and methodologies evaluating this information and research foresight on a pilot scale.

With regard to the AMP 2008, the Executive Director thanked the members for the comments provided and informed the members that the next version would be circulated once all input had been incorporated.

Recommendation: To look into possibilities to launch a pilot scale project on the ideas generated during the foresight seminar in respect to the further steps.

Item 6. SC input to the priorities for EEA next 5-year strategy. Feedback from the Management Board and the Scientific Committee on major priority areas to be addressed

The summary of the input received on the priorities for the next EEA Strategy was included in the background paper. It became apparent that around 75-80% of the current multiannual work programme would be taken forward. The discussion around the remaining part suggested stronger integration of environmental principles into sectors. The Executive Director informed the SC members that over the summer the Agency would draw a proposal on the main elements of the Strategy, which then would be further discussed at the MB Seminar in November 2007. The organisation of the latter was being planned around a broader context, involving input from financial and investment sectors, as well as from the consumers' side. To that end, she invited the members to get back to EEA with names of individuals from the research side that might be invited as well. The Chairman asked for proposals on the vision for the Agency in the next five years.

F. Lobnik reflected on the fact that over the past years EEA had proved itself as a strong partner with influential ideas to the European Commission and the Parliament. With respect to the evolution of the cooperation between JRC and EEA, M. Grasserbauer (JRC) underlined the fact that the collaborative programme currently comprised more than 20 projects and the European governance concern was a joint vision. Furthermore, the partnership within the 'Group of Four' (G4) had been strengthened with the data centres concept.

In the subsequent discussion, the SC members brought up a number of issues to be considered when developing the new strategy, such as: need for policy studies and policy oriented research, strengthening the cooperation with ETCs on targeted research for the Agency, regular scientific input to the emerging trends, upgrading

the effectiveness evaluations in the Agency, demonstrating broader leadership for the SOER 2010, introducing more intersectoral thinking, as well as keeping a closer contact with leading journalists as the main gateway to the public. In advance of the MB Seminar, the Executive Director invited the committee to contribute to the main elements of the strategy vis-à-vis its scientific input.

Recommendation: (1) To provide input (working opinion) on the next strategy's priorities in relation to scientific aspects; (2) To contribute to the shaping up of the Strategy format for the MB Seminar.

Item 7. Identification of the future role of SC

The Chairman kicked off the discussion by presenting a few key issues on the SC role and its operation, to do with its independence, opinions provided, quality control on main report, as well as advice on the utilisation of the Agency's outputs and impact analysis.

The members took note of the points presented and agreed to put an emphasis on the independence of the input produced by the committee in support of Agency's work. Strengthening the scientific excellence and credibility of information provided was underlined.

The Executive Director reiterated the point that the SC members were to be actively engaged in disseminating Agency's activities and act as a conduit to its information, whenever possible. While some members recognised the fact that they were not always be informed on the EEA activities across the board, especially when falling outside their areas of expertise, they agreed that they should strive to publicise positive messages of Agency's work.

It was also mentioned that there had been a request from the Bureau for the Scientific Committee to look at an early stage at the scientific references in EEA's publications and reports. Even though this had been followed in some cases, there was a need for applying it consistently across the areas.

Recommendation: (1) SC to produce a short document on its role to be agreed by the members before the end of the meeting and present it for discussion at the next Management Board in June; (2) the Agency should involve the SC in the review of the scientific reference in the publications and reports at an early stage.

Item 8. Process and evaluation criteria for the 2008 call for new SC experts

The Chairman informed the members about the upcoming call for experts on the Scientific Committee in 2008. The timetable of the process was presented in the paper under this item. The discussion on the areas of expertise would be taken at the October meeting in conjunction with the discussion on the new EEA Strategy.

Item 9. SC involvement in the effectiveness evaluation work of EEA

Tomasz Zyllicz, SC representative in the steering group, informed the members about the first meeting of the group, during which was discussed the tendering process for selection of contractor and methodology for the evaluation exercise. He clarified that the effectiveness would be looked at how the Agency could influence the policy-makers and the public at a wider scale. The SC members would be kept informed on the planned activities and methodology selected.

Item 10. ETC review process. SC representatives in the process

The Executive Director briefed the committee on the planned review process for the thematic areas of Biological Diversity (BD) and Resources and Waste Management (RWM). Two SC representatives were appointed to the review committees: Teresa Andresen and Franc Lobnik to the BD one, and Marc Bonazountas and Theo Vermiere to the RWM one. Alongside the SC members, in the review would be involved external experts in the area and representatives of EEA and DG ENV. The SC Chairman would then take part in the steering committee that – on the basis of the reports from the review committees – would make recommendation to the Management Board in November on the areas to be covered by the two new ETCs in future.

Item 11. Belgrade report – first overview of messages

David Stanners (EEA) updated the SC members on the Belgrade developments. Links to the latest version of the report in English were provided in the paper. The current efforts were concentrated on the declaration for the Ministerial Conference and the process after Belgrade. It was expected that the Commission would publish shortly a Communication on the 'Environment for Europe' process.

Item 12. Round table on proposed seminar for upcoming SC meetings

The Chairman of the committee suggested that in October the SC members meet with the ETC managers to discuss their working practices and research activities, and a seminar in February is organised on biomass, biofuels, and possibly linking to the 'Bridging the Gap' conference. The Executive Director informed the committee that the draft work programme for 2008 would be sent for SC opinion in mid September. It would also give an insight into the ETCs activities for next year.

Recommendation: to look into possibilities to organise a joint ETC-SC meeting back-to-back in October.

Item 13. Any other business

The Executive Director informed the committee that the dates for the next 'Bridging the Gap' (BtG) Conference were set for 14-16 May 2008 in Slovenia. A steering committee was now established, comprising representatives from DG RTD, DG ENV, JRC, EEA and the Slovenians. Their first meeting was scheduled for the beginning of June, discussing draft agenda and possible topics. An outline of the Conference would be distributed to the Scientific Committee in due time. H. Haberl informed the committee of his recent visit to Eurostat, where the future HANPP implementation was discussed. Report of the meeting would be made available on CIRCA.

M. Grasserbauer (JRC) announced his retirement from the Director's post of Institute for Environment & Sustainability (IES) and asked the members to disseminate this information to prospective candidates. The SC members expressed high appreciation of M. Grasserbauer's contribution to the EEA work and his interest in the SC activities.

The meeting closed at 15:15.

D. ACTION LIST – 39th Scientific Committee, 16 May 2007

Item	Action	Status 26 September 2007
4	To upload the final version to CIRCA and make them available on the web	Done
5	To look into possibilities to launch a pilot scale project on the ideas generated during the foresight seminar in respect to the further steps	To be considered at the October SC meeting (part of the discussion on AMP2008 and next EEA Strategy)
6	To provide input (working opinion) on the next strategy's priorities in relation to scientific aspects	On the 40 th SC agenda – draft produced by D.Sprinz and L.Somlyody
7	SC to agree on its role to be presented for discussion at the June Management Board meeting	Paper agreed and presented at MB on 20 June; feedback to be given at the October SC meeting
7	The Agency should involve the SC in the review of the scientific reference in the publications and reports at an early stage	To be considered across the areas
8	Discussion on the areas of expertise for the 2008 call for experts to be taken at the October meeting in conjunction with the discussion on the new EEA Strategy	On the 40 th SC agenda
9	The SC members to be kept informed on the effectiveness evaluation exercise	Update at the 40 th SC
12	To organise a joint ETC-SC meeting back-to-back in October	Planned for the afternoon of 4 October

E. ANNEXES

- Annex 1 – Agenda of the 39th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
- Annex 2 – Attendance list to the 39th SC meeting, 16 May 2007

**Annex 1 - Agenda of the 39th meeting of the EEA Scientific Committee
16 May 2007**

Doc. EEA/SC/39/02rev1

Wednesday, 16 May 2007, 08:30-16:30, EEA

- 08:30 *Breakfast meeting of the SC members (Fontana room)*
- 09:30 1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Scientific Committee
- 09:40 2. Adoption of the draft agenda – *for decision*
- 09:45 3. Approval of minutes of the 38th Scientific Committee of 13-14 February 2007 – *for decision*
- 09:50 4. Scientific update by the Executive Director
- 10:10 5. Follow-up from the Research foresight workshop and further steps on Annual Management Plan 2008 – *for discussion*
- 10:30 6. SC input to the priorities for EEA next 5-year strategy. Feedback from the Management Board and the Scientific Committee on major priority areas to be addressed – *for discussion*
- 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:15 7. Identification of the future role of SC – *for discussion*
- 11:45 8. Process and evaluation criteria for the 2008 call for new SC experts
- 12:15 9. SC involvement in the effectiveness evaluation work of the Agency – feedback from the 42nd Bureau meeting on 15 May
- 12:45 *Lunch*
- 14:00 10. ETC review process. SC representatives in the process. New areas for ETCs? – *for discussion*
- 14:45 11. Belgrade report – first overview of messages
- 15:30 12. Round table on proposed topics and lectures for upcoming SC meetings – *for discussion*
- 16:00 13. Any other business

Tabled documents:

- Items 4 and 6: Presentations (available on CIRCA)
- Item 7: Summary of core operational outputs, additional work for 2008 requested by DG Environment and related budget estimates

Annex 2 – ATTENDANCE LIST**EEA 39th Scientific Committee meeting, 16 May 2007, Copenhagen**

NAME	ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
SC members		
Teresa ANDRESEN	Departamento de Botânica Faculdade de Ciências- Universidade do Porto	Signed
André BERGER	Institut d'astronomie et de Géophysique G Lemaître, Université Catholique de Louvain	Signed
Marc BONAZOUNTAS	Epsilon International SA	Apologies
David BRIGGS	Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Imperial College London	Signed
Pierluigi COCCO	Department of Public Health, University of Cagliari	Signed
Daniel COSSA	Department of Biogeochemistry and Ecotoxicology IFREMER	Apologies
Yves DESAUBIES	IFREMER	Signed
Helmut HABERL	Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities	Signed
Ulrike KASTRUP	SBB – Swiss Federal Railways	Signed
Manfred KLEEMANN	Research Centre Jülich	Signed
Pierre LACONTE	Foundation for the Urban Environment	Signed
Franz LOBNIK	Biotechnical Faculty, Center for Soil and Environmental Sciences	Signed
Juan MARTINEZ-ALIER	Department of Economics and Economic History, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	Apologies
Nadia PINARDI	University of Bologna	Signed
Július OSZLÁNYI	Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences	Signed
László SOMLYÓDY	Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering	Signed

Detlef SPRINZ	PIK-Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Global Change and Social Systems	Signed
Theo VERMÉIRE	National Institute of Public Health and Environment (RIVM)	Apologies
Peter WADHAMS	Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge	Apologies
Tomasz ZYLICZ	Economics Department, Warsaw University	Signed
Guest		
Manfred GRASSERBAUER	JRC	Signed
EEA Staff		
Jacqueline McGLADE	Executive Director	Signed
Jock MARTIN	Head of Programme - Biodiversity, spatial analysis & scenarios (BSS)	Signed
David STANNERS	Head of Programme - Strategic knowledge and innovation (SKI)	Signed
Galina GEORGIEVA	Scientific Committee secretariat, CCA1	Signed